(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there has been demand for **a** review of the Electricity Act, 2003; and

(f) if so, whether Government is considering to consider the said demand?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Regulatory Commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with guidelines issued by the Central Government. Draft guidelines have been prepared in this regard for medium term to long term procurement to electricity by distribution companies;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government states that "the review of the Electricity Act, 2003 will be undertaken in view of the concern expressed by a number of states. The mandatory date of June, 10,2004 for unbundling and replacing the State Electricity Boards will be extended".

The mandatory date of June 10,2004 for unbundling of State Electricity Boards has been extended for periods ranging from 2 months to 12 months in respect of 13 States who had requested for such extension. Further, the State Transmission Utilities having authorization under the repealed electricity laws, have been authroized to engage in the activity of bulk purchase and sale of electricity to distribution companies for a further period of one year from 10th June, 2004. The Act is being implemented. As and when any difficulty arises we will look into the same.

Involvement of NHPC in Rural Development and Road Construction

649. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation is mandated to involve itself primarily to hydro electric power generation;

(b) whether the NHPC has taken up large projects in rural development and road construction in some States; and

(c) if so, the reasons for NHPC allocating its funds for projects other than hydel power generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Memorandum of Association of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) provides that the Corporation can act as an entrepreneur on behalf of the Central Government to identify new areas of economic investment and undertake or help in the undertaking of such investments. NHPC has taken up construction of rural roads in the State of Bihar under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

(c) NHPC has not allocated any funds for development of rural roads as the funds for the above scheme are being provided by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Diverting Surplus Power to Deficient Regions and States

650. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement and production of power, region-wise and State-wise;

(b) what methodologies are adopted for diverting power from areas with surplus power to the deficient regions and States;

(c) whether States getting their power requirements from neighbouring States/regions are assisted financially for servicing their power bills; and

(d) if so, the details of power transmitted and allocation made for this purpose during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) State-wise and Region-wise energy requirement and availability in the country during the period April-October, 2004, is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) Power from surplus States/Regions to deficit States/Regions is transmitted in following ways:

(i) Surplus power in central generating stations surrendered by constituents is allocated to deficient States/Regions on temporary basis.